

Environmentalism and Ecocriticism

Last Updated: Fri, 01/02/2026

Course prefix: LMC

Course number: 3308

Section: A

CRN (you may add up to five):

35310

Instructor First Name: Thomas

Instructor Last Name: Crawford

Semester: Spring

Academic year: 2026

Course description:

Surveys the emergence of ecocriticism as an analytical framework for interpreting the verbal and visual rhetorics of environmentalism in both western and nonwestern cultures.

Course learning outcomes:

Learning Outcomes:

- Textual/Visual/Material Analysis: Students will learn to read, analyze, and interpret cultural projects as well as scientific and technical documents.
- Historical Analysis: Students will study literary and cultural texts within an historical framework to become familiar with the various forces that shape artistic and commercial production. They will learn to interpret history actively, rather than passively accepting archival information

Required course materials:

Mentz Ocean

MacFarlane Is The River Alive?

White The Organic Machine

Metcalf Waters of the Potowmack

Grading policy:

Discussion Postings: 20%

Final Project: 40%

Hour Test #1: 20%

Hour Test #2: 20%

Attendance policy:

Class attendance is mandatory. First two absences are excused, further unexcused absences reduces final grade by 5 points each.

Academic honesty/integrity statement:

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy.

Core IMPACTS statement(s) (if applicable):

Core IMPACTS

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I interpret the human experience through creative, linguistic and philosophical works?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts or of works in the visual/performing arts.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Ethical Reasoning
- Information Literacy
- Intercultural Competence